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NOTES AND ABSTRACTS

A Parallelism in Social Science.—Recognizing the intimate relations of all the social sciences as components of a greater whole, since they have, each and all, their center in man, we may make a comparison of economic and political science:

1. In both instances, desire and aversion are the cardinal facts, and these mental attitudes always contain selfish and altruistic motives in varying proportion. The object of immediate desire in one field, may be so sought because of its influence in the other. Law and trade affect each other, and within their respective spheres they are connected with other objects.

2. Mere desire is insufficient: effective demand means, in economics, purchasing power; in politics, compelling power. The effective demand of a community is the algebraic sum of the demands of the individuals, whether it is in economics or legislation.

3. Demand always calls forth supply. But, while economic supply is divisible, political supply is usually a unit. In order not to prove abortive, therefore, intensity of desire or demand in politics must rise to a given level; else, all the effort is lost. "A miss is as good as a mile." Political adjustments are therefore in general rougher than in the case of economic supply and demand.

4. Economic supply "lags behind demand," often rising to a maximum when the demand is already declining. In politics measures are adopted, frequently, after the death of their exponents, or when ideas have already changed. The less complicated the machinery the closer and more immediate the adjustment. The need of creating new instruments hinders ready establishment of equilibrium. Further, if a given agency or instrument is furnishing only one political or economic commodity, it is more quickly adjusted to new demand than when it is closely bound up with other "interests."

5. A more or less temporary monopoly, economic or governmental, can for the time being limit or refuse a supply until the demand becomes too strong. Action in any event may be in behalf of interests purely selfish, or popular, or both mixed. The character of the supply may be made to affect future demand, and after the provision of a legal or economic function has been undertaken, to change means to sacrifice established interests or a breaking of established habits. Producers of durable commodities, like governments with long tenure, can, by waiting, take advantage of the favorable moment when the public is in the proper mood. This course is not open to dealers in perishable commodities or to governments with short tenure of office.

6. The parallelism between the two sciences is illustrated in the fallacy of the doctrine of "maximum satisfaction," often applied to both. Complete industrial freedom on the one hand, and complete political freedom, on the other, for the individual, are claimed to give the greatest common advantage. It does not follow that, even were each individual to follow his best interests when left alone, all individuals would work for the best common ends. The individual is not the best judge "of what he *ought* to want." Desires are not a test of capacity to fulfil them. Equal demand prices and equal voting power may obscure very great differences in the intensity of desire of individuals. The maximum real satisfaction may not be obtained. A majority is supreme, although the intensity of the desires of the minority may be greater.—A. C. Pigou, "The Unity of Political and Economic Science," *Economic Journal*, September, 1906.
A. H. N. B.

The Family System in Japan.—The extraordinary efficiency shown by the Japanese in war has called attention to the nation throughout the world, and many explanations of their success have been offered. The chief reason is the family basis of their national life. The individualism of the West separates parents and children, and leaves each to seek individual good. In Japan "the honor and glory of the house are the first concern of all." By tracing back their origin many centuries to one founder, the Japanese obtain a center of allegiance in the personal representative

of the common ancestor, the emperor. All individual sentiment is wiped out before considerations of patriotism. The individual suffering is recognized as of social value.

The feeling of national unity has modified the religions accepted. Buddhism and Confucianism have been adapted to communal relations. The difficulty of introducing Christianity has mainly been due to its antagonizing ancestral relationships. With modern requirements the need for more individualism is recognized. The danger is seen in the tendencies toward self-centered interest in the young. Consequently, the problem of national persistence in Japan is the most effectual union of family regard and individual recognition—the combination of the strong elements in oriental and western civilizations.—Junjiro Takakusu, "The Social and Ethical Value of the Family System in Japan," *International Journal of Ethics*, October, 1906.

A. H. N. B.

The Unemployed and Trade Unions.—Because the trade unions are becoming bankrupt on account of their money being sent abroad to assist sympathetic strikers they are less and less able to carry on a winning fight. To relieve the trade unions of their responsibility and in order that the honest workers may be benefited and protected in the days of sickness and old age from want and misery, the following outline of a plan is presented:

Let a labor tribunal be formed in every manufacturing center, composed of an equal number of laborers and employers before which disputes may be legally and equitably settled. This tribunal may be elected by public vote. Let a judge preside to see that the law is fulfilled. Where the tribunal is equally divided let a permanent arbitrator be referred to, all operators and operatives to covenant to abide by the decision of the tribunal.

Let every operative pay to the government a weekly sum out of his or her wages (not to exceed the amount paid at present to the trade unions) to be collected by the employers, paid weekly to the government at an appointed bank; a set of books being kept open to government inspection at every place of employment, every laborer being provided with a savings-book showing the wages paid and the amount paid to the government; men who pay this from the ages of twenty to thirty years to enjoy an earlier pension than those beginning later. The age at which pensions commence must be higher than when it has been developed; a subsistence to be allowed in case of sickness certified by a physician; accident by intemperance to receive no allowance; employers to pay the government one-half of the sum subscribed weekly by the labor they employ in addition to the sum paid by the operatives; in return for this they are to be relieved of the insurance paid under the Employers' Liability Act; women and children to subscribe *pro rata*. When children begin to subscribe as soon as they can earn wages they are to be provided with a certain sum when married with which to begin housekeeping.

By this plan, pauperism among the respectable would be decreased and the proud independence of the workingmen would be respected—they would have earned this saving.

At present there are a number of establishments erected for the benefit of the poor not answering their purpose, because the poor cling in old age to their relatives instead of going to these establishments. Some such places would be maintained for those with no relatives if this plan were adopted, viz: let the aged remain with their relatives but pay perhaps 4s. a week per head to the relatives. Orphan children could be kept in the country and raised by farmers; they would learn agriculture and a love of nature. Towns and cities ruin our rising generation. This education in the country must not increase the cost of education.

The plan is followed in Germany of subscribing to a state provision against old age and sickness. Those who will not work are treated as a special class, incapable of looking after themselves.—David McLaren Morrison, *Nineteenth Century and After*, March, 1906.

S. E. W. B.

The Law of Heredity.—The following are accepted conclusions: (1) Diseases, as such, whether inborn or acquired, are never transmitted; in the case of inborn affections, predisposition to the malady, but not the malady, is transmitted; (2) acquired external defects or mutilations are as a rule not transmitted; (3) In case of acquired pathological disarrangement of internal organs, there is some probability

of their being transmitted from parent to offspring, but under quite definite and special circumstances, that is to say, if these internal lesions have caused the parent great suffering and called for much endurance.—Louis Elkind, *North American Review*, August, 1906. S. E. W. B.

A National Department of Health.—The following circular letter explains itself:

To the Editors and Publishers of America.

Gentlemen: Pasteur wrote: "It is within the power of every man to rid himself of every parasitic disease."

The time has now arrived, in the judgment of many persons, for establishing a National Department of Health at Washington to wage warfare against the preventable diseases of mankind. In a similar way, the United States Department of Agriculture has expended during the last ten years fifty millions of dollars in a splendid fight against the diseases of plants and animals.

The fearful wastes of death and sickness and the dreadful havoc wrought can never be described. The fiercest battles ever fought left no such bloody trails, even when the mailed hand of war smote cruelest and harshest, as the crimson boulevards—ten-death-chariots-wide—traced by the passing finger-touches of pneumonia or consumption wastes within a week's end span. Along these ghastly boulevards will be strewn, before twelve months are gone, more blasted hopes and broken hearts than all the countless grinning skulls slain in fair fights and whitening battlefields since time began.

Could the 750,000 persons in the United States marked for death during the next twelve months from preventable causes voice in a threniad verdict their conviction, in a last solemn *morituri salutamus*, who can doubt what would be their admonition: that good health is more precious than rubies, and a long life well lived fairer than beaten gold? Who can doubt, if these measures were before the nation, how they would cast their verdicts? As the slaves chained to the chairs of the conquerors in the triumphs that are gone, so the passing hours silently remind us: "And we too are mortal."

In the accompanying paper read before the American Association for the Advancement of Science partial data have been assembled concerning the magnitude of these wastes and the possibilities of prevention. The great need is for the awakening of the nation to the splendid remedies which the great medical and sanitary experts could devise, if properly organized for the task.

Could only the busy editors of the nation, who guide all movements of humanity and progress, co-operate in bringing this fearful destruction vividly before their readers, no greater good could be accomplished; and in the years to come, many a man now marked for an early death, when celebrating his ninetieth birthday among his children, would thank his stars for a progressive press.

With best wishes, and thanking you in advance for whatever co-operation may be rendered in this agitation for inaugurating a National Department of Health, which must go on until the purposes are allowed and the means provided, believe me

Truly yours,

J. PEASE NORTON.